

## #9 FORUM POST OF FREE WILL

Dear S\_\_\_,

You asked:

### QUESTION

Why would God give Adam a Command **not to eat of the tree if it was God's will for him to eat from the tree -in the first place ----God would have said --go ahead and eat of the tree so I can make you sin and be banished from my garden and so you will spread sin all over my world –**

God gave the command to Adam so that when Adam broke the command, it would expose Adam's sinful nature to him. God also gave the Nation of Israel the Law for the same reason. Mankind cannot ever be good enough in our created spiritual condition. God wants mankind to know this truth so that we will eventually be led to Christ who can change our spiritual condition. Christ is the only one who can do this work.

The better question to ask is "why did God make mankind spiritually flawed to begin with, knowing that we will become carnally minded and sinful"?

The short answer is that God's purpose for this creation is to create new children who are like Him both in Spirit and in knowledge. This is the meaning of life that seems to elude most people and even "called out" believers.

This creation is how God reproduces Himself. Mankind's destiny is to be God's offspring. Part of the birthing process God takes us through is for us to acquire the knowledge of good and evil. To satisfy that purpose, God decided that mankind should experience evil, not just on the receiving end of it but also on the giving end of it. Once God's purpose for evil has been satisfied, God will take away the evil and replace it with good. To accomplish this goal, God sent Christ into the world. When Christ's work is finished, evil will cease to exist because ALL MANKIND will be fully made into the image of God who is only good. We will be like Christ, who is like the Father. We will all be without sin and we will be ONE with the Father just as Christ is ONE with the Father. Death (which results from sin) will be defeated. All mankind will be in the Kingdom of Heaven and then God will be "all in all".

God is truly all powerful and He rules in the hearts and minds of mankind. God is spirit and in the hearts and minds of mankind is where His spiritual work is done. But since mankind is carnal (of this world), we are spiritually blind and cannot perceive the work that God does within us. But it makes no difference, God will accomplish all that He said He would do. Mankind's "will" is no match for God. God even said this about us:

**Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**

God's Word (Christ) has gone out from His mouth and it will not return to Him void - Christ will deliver up the Kingdom of Heaven to the Father and it will contain 100% of mankind (all who

died in Adam). No one will be left out because mankind's salvation happens because it is the Father's "will" for it to happen. Mankind's supposed Free Will cannot stop Him.

To believe that mankind's "will" is as powerful as God's "will" only proves that we have fallen prey to Satan and have become a Man of Sin as Paul described below:

**2Thes 2:1** Now we beseech you, brethren, by the appearing of our Lord Jesus Christ, and by our gathering together unto him, **2** That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. **3** Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that Man of Sin be revealed, the son of perdition; **4** Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God.

Jesus described this portion of the pathway to salvation this way:

**Mat 12:43-45** When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest, and findeth none. **44** Then he saith, I will return into my house from whence I came out; and when he is come, he findeth it empty, swept, and garnished. **45** Then goeth he, and taketh with himself seven other spirits more wicked than himself, and they enter in and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first. Even so shall it be also unto this wicked generation.

The spiritual symbol of an Unclean Spirit represents Satan's false truth. Since a new believer remains spiritually blind (**Mark 8:21-25**) after receiving the Early Rain, they cannot replace their worldly false beliefs with the truth of Christ. ONE unclean spirit leaves but comes back with SEVEN more (spirit of anti-Christ) since their house remains void of Christ's truth. Now, instead of ONE unclean spirit within them, they now have EIGHT. The number EIGHT is a spiritual symbol which represents a new spiritual condition. In this case, the new spiritual condition is worse than the first. Paul calls this worsened spiritual condition the Man of Sin.

This time of Falling Away described above happens to everyone who has been called out. It is a part of the Pathway to Salvation.

**Matt 4:4** But he answered and said, It is written, Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God.

"Every word" includes to both evil and good:

**Lam 3:38** Out of the mouth of the Most High doth not there proceed evil and good?

This time of evil is the time period presented by Daniel as a time, times and half a time - also called 3 1/2 days, 3 1/2 years, 1260 days and 42 months. It is our time of Tribulation.

Most Called out believers will remain in this worsen spiritual condition until they physically die but a few of this group will be saved.

**Matt 22:14** For many are called, but few are chosen.

Those saved in this age are the ones who have been chosen from the foundation of the world to be the Elect and the First Fruits of Christ's harvest of mankind. No one else will be saved by Christ in this age. They will only be saved at the end of the final age (the Lake of Fire age).

Joe

Dear S\_\_\_\_,

You said:

**Second ----you say there is no scripture giving us free choice -----Well that just shows your ignorance in really knowing Scripture ----**

**Deuteronomy 30:15-20**

**15 "Today I have given you a choice between life and death, success and disaster. 16 I command you today to love the Lord your God. I command you to follow him and to obey his commands, laws, and rules. Then you will live, and your nation will grow larger. And the Lord your God will bless you in the land that you are entering to take for your own.17 But if you turn away from your God and refuse to listen, if you are led away to worship and serve other gods,18 you will be destroyed. I am warning you today, if you turn away from God, you will not live long in that land across the Jordan River that you are ready to enter and take for your own. 19 "Today I am giving you a choice of two ways. And I ask heaven and earth to be witnesses of your choice. You can choose life or death. The first choice will bring a blessing. The other choice will bring a curse. So choose life! Then you and your children will live. 20 You must love the Lord your God and obey him. Never leave him, because he is your life. And he will give you a long life in the land that he, the Lord, promised to give to your ancestors—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."**

Here is the definition of FREE WILL: **the power or capacity to choose among alternatives or to act in certain situations independently of natural, social, or divine restraints.**

Scripture teaches that mankind has "divine restraints":

**Prov 16:1 The preparations of the heart in man, and the answer of the tongue, is from the LORD.**

**Prov 20:24 Man's goings are of the LORD; how can a man then understand his own way?**

**Prov 21:1 The king's heart is in the hand of the LORD, as the rivers of water: he turneth it whithersoever he will.**

**Isa 26:12 O Jehovah, Thou appointest peace to us, For, all our works also Thou hast wrought for us.**

**Isa 64:8 But now, O LORD, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand.**

**Jer 10:23 I know, Jehovah, that the way of man is not his own; it is not in a man that walketh to direct his steps.**

**Dan 4:35 And all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; and he doeth according to his will in the army of the heavens, and among the inhabitants of the earth; and none can stay his hand, or say unto him, What doest thou?**

These verses above ALL teach that there are "divine restraints" on mankind's "will" and ability to choose. There are NO VERSES that state differently. Evidently, you do not understand what having a "free will" ability to choose really is. ONLY GOD HAS THIS ABILITY, MANKIND DOES NOT.

Look at this simple analogy: a computer makes choices all day long but no one would say that the computer has a Free Will. The choices that the computer (mankind) makes are caused by the programmer (God). The programmer has a Free Will but the computer does not.

The Doctrine of Free Will is a works based belief system and is rejected by God. We are saved by Grace through Faith and not of works. Mankind has no Works which can save us. 100% of the work that must be done for our salvation comes from God through Christ. He is the Savior. We contribute nothing.

**Eph 2:8-10 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast. For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.**

The Doctrine of Free Will is the most common belief that causes us to Fall Away. We use this false belief system to justify why unbelievers are worthy of Hell and why we are not. We falsely believe that we are wiser or smarter or simply less evil than those who reject Christ. And because of this belief, we take credit for making the right choice to accept Christ. But in truth, the credit is not ours. It was Christ's work within us that caused us to accept Him as Lord. In our spiritually flawed and carnally minded condition we have from birth, no man will even seek to know God (**Rom 3:10-11, Rom 8:7**), much less accept Him as Lord.

Scripture clearly says that unless Christ gives us the Holy Spirit (the FREE GIFT), we cannot call Him Lord.

**1 Cor 12:3 Wherefore I give you to understand, that no man speaking by the Spirit of God calleth Jesus accursed: and that no man can say that Jesus is the Lord, but by the Holy Spirit.**

Only after Christ comes to us and gives us the Early Rain of the Spirit can we call Jesus "Lord". Paul's Damascus Road experience is the pattern (type) whereby we all must follow in order to be called out from the world. Christ came to Paul on the Damascus Road, uninvited by Paul, and gave Paul the Early Rain. Paul had no choice in the matter as to whether to accept the Spirit or to reject the Spirit. The Spirit was given to Him and after it was, Paul fell to his knees and called Christ "Lord". This begins Daniel's Time, Times and Half a Time when a believer is deceived by Satan and falls away.

After a Called Out believer has Fallen Away and is no longer saved, Christ must come to them a second time with the Latter Rain or they will die in their sins and receive their portion with the unbelievers (**Luke 12:46**). If the Called Out believer is one of the “few” and has been chosen from the foundation of the world, Christ will come to them again. And when He comes, He brings salvation with Him.

**Heb 9:28 So Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.**

Just a quick note on this verse: Christ appeared the first time in the flesh and took away the sins of the world on the cross. When He comes to an unbeliever with the Early Rain, He does not appear to them but remains hidden from their understanding. He is veiled or hidden in the cloud. The Early Rain event is not an appearance, it is a visitation. When Christ comes to a Called Out believer with the Latter Rain, He appears to them at this time. When He comes, He fully heals their spiritual blindness and the Light of His appearing will destroy the Man of Sin whom they have become. It is at this point, the new child of God is born.

Joe

Dear S\_\_\_\_,

Why have you not responded to the many verses that I have presented that clearly say mankind does not have a Free Will???

With the stories you presented above about drunk driving and adultery, you have overlooked what scripture says about our God's "will" and our sin. Paul was asked about this very subject about why God still holds us accountable for our sin in light of the truth that God is the cause of our sin happening in the first place. You should read all of Romans chapter 9 where God's "will" and sin are addressed. Here are a couple of the key verses from that chapter:

**Rom 9:19 Thou wilt say then unto me, Why doth he yet find fault? For who hath resisted his will?**

Here Paul is saying that mankind has no Free Will ability to deviate from God's "will". And that even when we sin, it is because it is God's "will" for it to happen. Because this is true, this question is asked "why doth He yet find fault?"

Here is Paul's answer to the question in verse 19:

**Rom 9:20 Nay but, O man, who art thou that repliest against God? Shall the thing formed say to him that formed it, Why hast thou made me thus?**

Here are my thoughts on the matter: God holds mankind accountable for our sins which He causes because it suits His purposes to do so. God is teaching mankind the difference between good and evil. If God doesn't create evil, then there wouldn't be any evil. If He doesn't hold us accountable for willingly doing evil, how can mankind learn right from wrong?

Ultimately, God took the responsibility for making us evil by sending Christ to bring mankind

out from the evil He created. By Christ's death on the cross and His ongoing work within mankind, all mankind will be born again and made righteous. In the end, God will wipe away all the tears from our eyes:

**Rev 7:17 For the Lamb which is in the midst of the throne shall feed them, and shall lead them unto living fountains of waters: and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes.**

God removes the evil He created by changing everyone from within (spiritually) so that we are born again and will never sin again. The Law cannot remove evil from existence, it can only limit it by using fear. That is why the Old Covenant of Law cannot save us. This method of fear is commonly practiced in the churches to this day – that is why they teach and follow the Doctrines of Free Will and Hell. But these doctrines are evil and they blaspheme the name of Christ in this world. These doctrines cause all who follow them to Fall Away because they come from a works based belief system. When a believer attempts to be acceptable to God through their own works (even just taking credit for their confession of faith), they commit the sin that leads to death.

Only the saving work of Christ within us can save us. It is a FREE GIFT from God which requires no Works from mankind. When Christ comes to us (and He will come to each of us someday), He gives us His free gifts which will change us from within. Once this event happens, we confess Him as Lord. That confession of faith is a work of Christ and not a work of man, lest any man should boast.

God has established a time for every person who has ever lived to receive this gift and be saved. In this present age, Christ is ONLY appearing to and saving the Elect, the First Fruits of His harvest of mankind. Everyone else will remain lost and be resurrected in that same marred spiritual condition. Then, in the final age, Christ with the help of the First Fruits, will begin His saving work within the rest of mankind. By the end of that final age, all mankind will be saved and God will be "all in all"

**1Cor 15:20 But now is Christ risen from the dead, and become the first-fruits of them that slept. 21 For since by man came death, by man came also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, even so in Christ shall all be made alive. 23 But every man in his own order: Christ the first-fruits; afterward they that are Christ's at his coming. 24 Then cometh the consummation, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God, even the Father; when he shall have put down all rule and all authority and power. 25 For he must reign, till he hath put all enemies under his feet. 26 The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death. 27 For he hath put all things under his feet. But when he saith all things are put under him, it is manifest that he is excepted, which did put all things under him. 28 And when all things shall be subdued unto him, then shall the Son also himself be subject unto him that put all things under him, that God may be all in all.**

Evil will then cease to exist.

Joe